Special Rant Feature

The following thinking came about after the reformation of the highly influential metal band, Carcass, the announcement of their world tour, and criticism of people who weren't sure if they would see the band.

Firstly, you didn't actually think this was about Carcass did you? What, because of that big logo? Don't you understand how things work? You really should be more careful. Now, on with the rant.

We think that we will still be dissapointed with Carcass playing old stuff on this tour, it won't be the same as when they toured those first two albums, and that is what we would really like to see.

We think that Bill Steer still won't sing. Their sound is not what it was in their early days, and we don't see them going back to that. They will still play a lot of material from Necroticism (ok), Heartwork (less ok.. not really interested) and Swansong (really not that interested)*. We are thinking that, if we are lucky, we'll get maybe 6 or 8 songs off the first two albums, and they still won't sound right, it will be Carcass, now, playing them. The band broke up because they didn't want to do it anymore. Jeff Walker has stated in an interview on the Earache website that he's "...not the biggest fan of Carcass..", Bill Steer want's to play old British rock, and does so with Firebird, Ken Owen is recovering from an illness** and won't be involved (which means that maybe current drummer, Daniel Erlandsson, may actually have some passion for being in Carcass), and perhaps Michael Amott has some passion for it in some sense, as one of his current bands sounds almost like a Carcass tribute band playing their own material.

We were quite pissed off the last (and only) time Carcass played in Australia. They only played material from Necroticism and Heartwork, Bill Steer (and Ken Owen) did not sing, Mike Amott had left the band, apparently being very unhappy with the material on Heartwork. We don't see things being that different this time, and the worst thing is that they presumably had some passion for what they were doing when they last toured Australia, and before they broke up. We don't think that the audience stands to gain much at all, sure it will be good, they will be tight, they'll play the songs most people want to hear, they'll flog a shit load of merchandise. Still, we can't help wondering what is driving them now, we $u$pect it could be... no, we won't $ay it. You can read between the lines there if you wish, our lips will remain $ewn $hut on the $ubject.

Yeah, they were great when it all happened, when you got that early passion.. but unless you can find some way to time travel, and we doubt that is possible (we do have our boffins working on it though, and will keep you posted), we think you'd just be wanking shit out of your nose, and who wants that?

If they were just touring the first two albums, well then, we suppose we be saying FUCK YEAH, even though it still would, could, never be the same, and we'd probably say the same if it was the first three albums, or even the first four, well, actually we'd say FUCK YEAH if we had any reason to believe the passion was still there. But it's not, is it? So deal with that.

What is our point here? No, we are not intending this as an attack on Carcass. We do think they are great. We will be there for the tour, and we'll probably enjoy it. We think they are one of the top bands of the style, of the time.. but man, there is going to be loads that they play that will leave us wishing they'd played a different track This is no longer the time, the time is past people.

Enough about Carcass. Incidently, check them out if they play near you. You may never get the chance again, and you probably missed them the first time around. They were great, at every stage of their career, and that won't change, ever.

So, what's all this reforming and touring all about, what do you as a potential audience member stand to gain from the experience?

We are seeing more and more bands reforming, flogging expensive tours and merchandise, reissuing old material (oooo, look some bonus tracks that were on the EP that accompanied the album, you'd better rush out for that like you rushed to this article because of a logo). Sure, there is probably some merit here, but you want to see all these bands in their heyday, and chances are, you did not. You can change this.

So, what's the solution, are we offering something constructive here? Suprisingly, we hope so.

All this really shows the importance of supporting young bands, upcoming scenes, new venues. It is good to support underground scenes. Wouldn't you have liked to seen any of the world's big underground acts when they were underground? They were once that band you'd never heard of that you wouldn't pay 5 bucks (or whatever) to see.

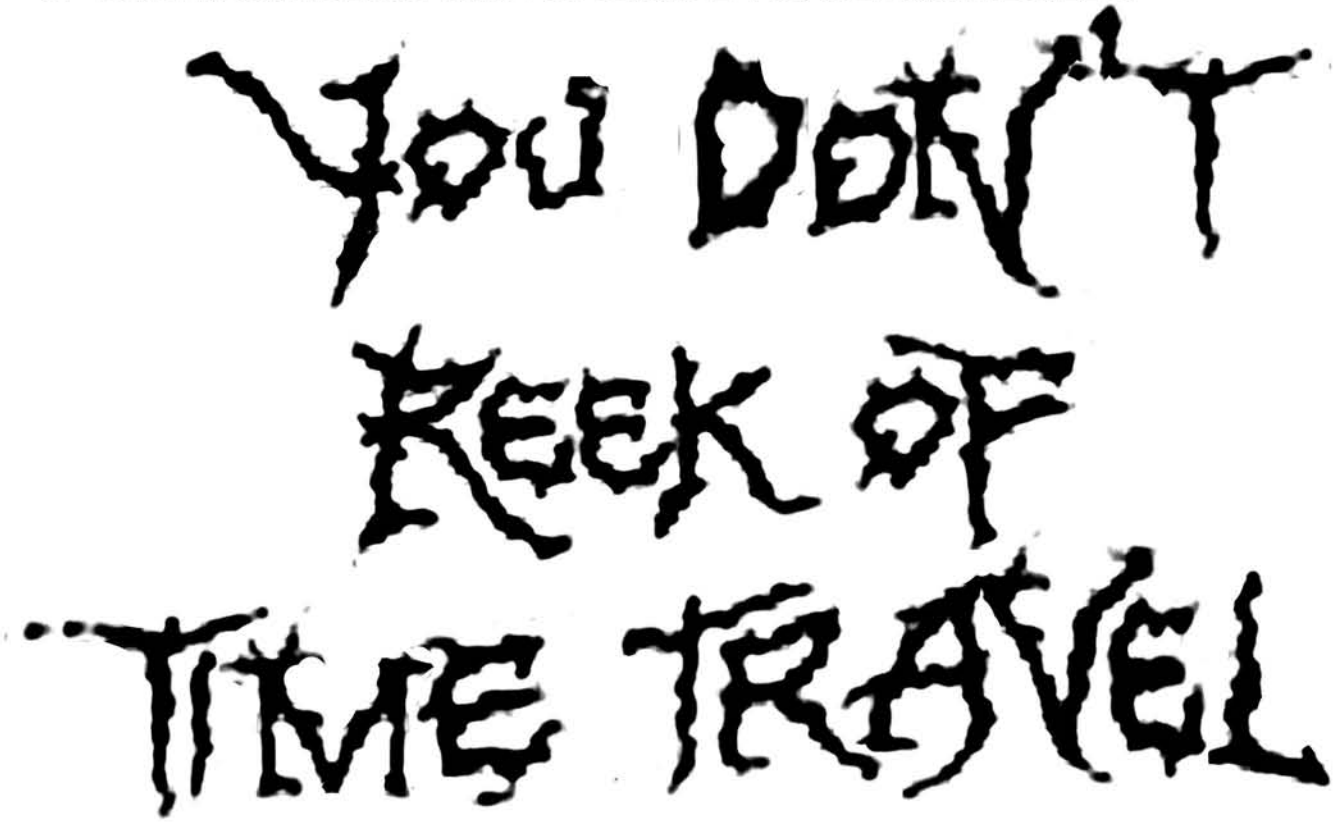
Think about it, that's when the extreme or underground stuff is best. The bands/performers are doing it because they want to, they are full of passion, they don't even know if they'll get paid. They just want to play. Look back at anything you like now, wouldn't you have liked to have seen them when you haven't even heard of them, back when almost noone had heard of them? Well, there is only one way to achive that, and it means going to gigs with bands you don't know. It is that simple people.

Remember, once performers get big it all starts getting shit for the audience.

We want you all to get up off your arses, and find something somewhere near where you live, and go a see things you know nothing about. Sure you'll probably see a load of crap much of the time. But remember, much of that crap is not that bad. Think about why performers are doing what they are doing. Take your chances when you can. Broaden your mind. Take a risk. Support some little venue that will go arse up without your 5 bucks.

And do you know what? Sometimes you'll see things you like. Then you can tell other people about them. The time and place is always now, and you'll just miss it if you are not there. How many great artists have we missed because noone was there when it was their time and place?

GO OUT AND SEE THINGS. LISTEN TO THEM. FUCK ALL THOSE BASTARDS WHO GAVE UP LONG AGO AND NOW WANT TO CHARGE YOU AN ARM AND A LEG.



*Don't get us wrong, those albums are good (even great) metal albums, but they are not really what we want to see. We want what we missed, what we never got. Sadly. Incidently, if you do want to see early Carcass play, they do have one official DVD that features a 1989 show, and a 1992 show. Try that. But it's still not the same, is it. Go and see bands people! GO!!!

**And of course we wish Ken Owen all the best, and we have taken our wishing fairies out of our condom packets, and have them wishing away for him (he should feel blessed by that). Sure, we are very mean, but we are NOT human. We wish all the lads from Carcass all the best with the projects in which they have passion, whether we like the project or not (and let's face it, why would you want a band to go on when the passion is gone, people? really... let it go). Ken Owen still rocks!! He is Ken Owen.